

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

IN our last issue we announced the date of the next Congress of the Alliance, and rather congratulated ourselves upon being able to do so in such good time. But it is just possible that the very fact that it is nearly a year ahead may induce some of our readers to say to themselves, "Oh, not till next May: I needn't begin to think about it yet." For busy people that is rather a natural way of looking at it, but in international matters especially it is really fatal, and it is to be hoped that all those who, as actual members of the Alliance, or as members of its affiliated societies, are concerned with its affairs will begin to think now how they can plan to attend, and also what in their view are the matters they most hope will be discussed. Because the Alliance is not somebody else's business and concern, it is *your* Alliance just so far as you will make it so. It is for you to shape its policy, as it is for you to further its aims; there is no mysterious personality in the background laying down what it is to do and whom you can therefore vaguely blame if things go wrong or are not in accordance with your ideas. The President and the Board must indeed take the responsibility of putting into shape the aspirations of the members, and must take the responsibility of carrying out their demands; but then you choose them for this work, and it is still for you to make the best choice. If the Board does its best to give you time for consideration, do please do your best to use that time for that purpose, and so help to make the Congress what you most desire it to be.

The attitude of women as the principal consumers—or, at any rate, purchasers—of most household goods is one that has from time to time aroused considerable interest. We publish this month an article from Austria which shows that Austrian women are alive to this important rôle played by women in the economic life of their country. But there is another responsibility

of the consumer which is not so often thought of—that is, the indirect responsibility for the origin and history of the goods she buys. We have sometimes seen appeals to women not to buy sweated goods, but for the most part such appeals fall on deaf ears, and yet a sensitiveness to the industrial history of the goods she buys might very well be one of the points which should distinguish the good woman citizen. How are we to find out whether things are produced under good conditions or not is the natural question which comes to our lips. Well, perhaps we cannot always find out, and certainly we cannot find out without a little trouble; but there are trades unions, there are committees and societies which can supply this information—at any rate as regards many of the large wholesale dealers. It may be difficult, it may in many cases be impossible; but since one of the difficulties of our modern complex system is the destruction of direct connection between actual maker and buyer, is it not a duty that women might well lay on themselves to try and establish again that connection in a way that meets modern conditions? If industrial conditions are bad, each citizen is to some degree responsible; we cannot get away from that responsibility by saying that we have nothing to do with these questions. Every wrong in every state may be laid at the door of its individual citizens, and to claim the rights of citizenship is also to claim the duties; and the more they have been neglected by those who have longer had citizen rights, the more need there is for women to show that they have more sensitive consciences and will not be so ready to shuffle off the burden. There is one thing that is easy to do, and that is to take some little pains to find out what are the working conditions of those who serve you in the shops. The steps further back are harder, and must depend on what machinery exists in a given country for research into them; but to some extent we see with our own eyes what are the working lives of those who serve in shops, offices, and restaurants. We can ask them

questions—not, of course, in the voice of condescension, but in a spirit of genuine interest; many of us who are also working women, in one sphere or another, go often to the same restaurant, the same draper, the same grocer, and almost inevitably establish some social contact with the assistants. Perhaps if we asked a few questions, we should not feel like going on with those same firms! And we should perhaps find some satisfaction in telling their principals why we made a change. We need not confine our interest to women, but it is because it is invariably women who suffer the most from bad conditions, that women should more particularly open their minds to this special responsibility. For most of us life is already so full of duties, of responsibilities, that we are inclined to excuse ourselves from these unofficial inspections—after all, there are Government departments to look after these things. Yes, but in our heart of hearts do we think that they get to the root of the matter, or do we expect them to do so unless there is an informed public opinion behind them? No, behind every single social evil there is that attitude of society to which the Psalmist referred when he exclaimed: "And my People love to have it so."

May we take this opportunity of reminding those of our readers who will be in London in July, that the British Commonwealth League, whose object is equality between men and women, is holding a Conference on the problems of citizenship of all British women at the Caxton Hall on July 9 and 10, tickets 3s. 6d., and a luncheon at the Criterion Restaurant on the second day, tickets 5s. 6d., both to be obtained from Miss Collisson, 17, Buckingham Street, London, W.C. 2. The programme appeared in our last issue, and additional speakers who have promised their help since that date include Lord Cecil of Chelwood, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., the Hon. H.M. Joshi, of the Indian Legislative Assembly, and others. On July 15-17 there will be a Conference on "Women in Science and Industry" at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, notice of which also appeared in the June issue. THE EDITOR.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE CHILD.

THE League of Nations Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and the Protection of Children met in Geneva from May 20 to 27, this being its first meeting since the protection of children was added to the Committee's objects. Including myself there are five assessors appointed for this special purpose, each of us representing an international association or group of associations. At once difficulties made themselves felt, arising from the union of two quite dissimilar objects under the same committee. Each group of assessors, though permitted to attend all meetings, could only take part in their own section of the two-fold object, and there was some dissatisfaction with the waste of time which thereby resulted. Objections were also taken to the linking up of so specialised and painful a question as the traffic in women with the great constructive subject of child welfare. Some members urged strongly that the Council of the League should be asked to dissolve this unnatural union by forming two separate committees. But for various administrative reasons the solution finally reached was that the committee should be renamed as the "Advisory Commission for the protection and welfare of children and young people"; that it should consist of two committees, one called the "Traffic in Women and Children Committee" the other "The Child Welfare Committee," each consisting of the same Government delegates but with its separate group of assessors, and that the meeting of the one committee should be held immediately after that of the other (a joint session being arranged at the discretion of the chairman if any of the subjects to be discussed come within the purview of both).

The discussions relating to the welfare of children at this first meeting naturally resolved themselves into a choice of methods and of subjects for future consideration.

Seeing that children are, after all, men and women in the making, nearly every question that affects the adult has a bearing upon children and "child welfare," thus offering a vast field. It was realised, however, that "if the work of the League in this field is to be effective it must be built up gradually from a strictly limited programme and developed as opportunity offers." The committee therefore decided, while avoiding a narrow definition, to make a selection of certain subjects for immediate study. In choosing these it was agreed "to take the normal child as the basis of study and to emphasise the constructive side of child welfare as much as the more limited though vital question of protecting the child from adverse influences and wilful exploitation." The committee further decided to concern itself chiefly with the study of problems on which the comparison of the experience of different countries might be most likely to lead to international co-operation and to assist individual Governments.

The subjects finally chosen to begin with were the following:—

(1) A study of the law relating to life and health in early infancy (to be carried out in co-operation with the Health Committee of the League).

(2) A compilation of the laws relating to the age of consent and to the age of marriage—a problem suggested by Dr. Paulina Luisi of Uruguay.

(3) The question of preparing an International Convention for the assistance or repatriation of foreign children who are abandoned, neglected or delinquent. This question was proposed by the International Association for the Protection of Children, which has been making a special study of it.

(4) Child labour. The International Labour Office is to be asked to collect and supply information as to the effect of child labour on the physical and moral well-being of children, and of the steps taken for its restriction. The I.L.O. is also to be asked to report as to the countries which have not ratified the conventions affecting child labour and their reasons for failing to ratify.

(5) Family allowances. The International Labour Office is to be asked to collaborate with the Secretariat in accumulating information as to the effect on the well-being of children of family allowances, whether paid for by equalisation funds, or by individual employers, or by public bodies; further, on the possibility of making provision for family allowances through an extension of social insurance.

(6) A study of the effect of the cinematograph on the mental and moral well-being of children, and of the steps taken in different countries to exercise supervision over the character of the pictures shown to children.

The above questions are to be given priority, but the following were also recommended as deserving attention, if and when the Secretariat can find time for the purpose: The adoption of children; the position of the deserted child; the age at which elementary education normally ceases. The Committee also decided to invite the International Labour Office, if it should consider it practicable, to collect and supply information as to the effect on the well-being of children of measures taken to alleviate the hardships caused by the unemployment, sickness or death of the wage-earner, whether through social insurance, poor-law relief, State pensions, etc., whether inclusive or not of extra allowances for dependants.

In addition to all these subjects, the committee agreed, at the request of different members, to place the following on its agenda for next session: recreation, biological education (a euphemism for education in sex matters), the neglected and delinquent child. The question of alcoholism was also pressed on our attention by the Polish delegate, and though it was considered too wide a subject to be considered in its general bearings, it was suggested that it should be placed upon the agenda of the next meeting in some specific form in which it affects directly the work of the committee.

A discussion arose also on the education of young people in the principles of international peace, but it was found that this subject had already been brought before the Fifth Assembly by a recommendation of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation as to the

"fundamental importance of familiarising young people throughout the world with the principles and the work of the League of Nations, and of training the younger generation to regard international co-operation as the normal method of conducting world affairs." The committee therefore confined itself to recording its satisfaction in knowing that a report on this subject is to be brought before the next meeting of the Assembly.

It will be noticed that the subjects thus outlined cover a very wide field, and to deal with them with any thoroughness may well keep the committee occupied for several years. The methods to be employed have been defined, at the suggestion of Miss Grace Abbott, as "documentation, research, and discussion." The amount of work of this kind that can be accomplished between its annual meetings must inevitably be limited by the financial resources and the staff which the Secretariat is able to devote to the purpose.

The amount which the Council is likely to allot for this purpose will not probably be large, although a welcome addition to it has been made in the shape of a gift of 15,000 dollars, presented by "the friends of the League of Nations" in the United States.

From the feminist point of view it is satisfactory to know that this new development of the League's work is in the charge of a woman officer of the Secretariat, Dame Rachel Crowdy, and that women are fairly well represented on the committee. Of eleven Government delegates, three are women: Dr. Estrid Hein, of Denmark; Miss Grace Abbott, of the United States; and Dr. Paulina Luisi, of Uruguay. Of the six assessors, three are women: Miss Eglantine Jebb, of the Save the Children Fund; Dame Katherine Furze, representing the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; and myself, representing the women's international organisations. All these women took an active part in shaping the programme.

To anyone unversed, as I am, in the work of international committees, the rate of progress must seem slow; but I was assured by the more experienced members that, comparatively speaking, the pace was a very good one. No doubt it will be better still at the next meeting, when we have learnt to know each other and have come prepared with a knowledge of the subjects to be discussed. Most of the League's work is concerned with the combating of gigantic evils, the uprooting of poisonous weeds. Here, in this new Committee, it is engaged not in destruction but in building for the future, and its work should be happy as well as fruitful.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

I.C.W. CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON.

THE Alliance showed its appreciation of the first invitation of the International Council of Women, by sending as delegates to its Conference, at Washington, its Honorary President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, and one of its most distinguished and earliest members, Dr. Aletta Jacobs, of Holland, and myself.

It was a great pleasure to meet so many distinguished women, and renew old friendships.

The resolutions we print, will show the vast scope of the work undertaken by the various councils. Much of the work lies outside the equality programme of the Alliance, but in returning thanks for the cordial endorsement by the delegates, of our invitation, I gladly promised our co-operation in the field of equal moral standard—equality before the law and in industry, and, above all, in equal rights of suffrage and citizenship.

Comparing the Conference at Washington with past gatherings, I felt a marked increase of self-confidence and responsibility among the women present, and a more practical sense of political and social work. The fact that the delegates of so many countries are now full citizens, and have had years of experience in voting and in legislating, makes for a sense of reality. We were not passing pious resolutions which we might beg some friendly M.P. to advance on our behalf, we were recording the common assent of the women of the world to the solution of difficulties on certain lines, knowing the power to act lay with us.

It seemed to me that our splendid colleagues in Switzerland, France, and South and Central America, felt this too. Suffrage for women would come when the women were alive to its importance, and, meantime, they are exercising a growing influence in social and educational work, and are extending their responsibilities.

The resolution which concerns us most nearly, is the suggestion to set up a standing committee which will enable the International organisations of women to act together more quickly and consistently, which is specially important as regards the League of Nations.

We hope joint action will be taken immediately on the nationality of married women, and on adding a woman member to the Commission on Slavery.

The attitude of the I.C.W. towards the position of women in industry will be defined by the study of industrial questions during the next period. Miss Pollak, the out-going chairman, opposed industrial legislation which discriminated against women.

Dr. Alltman Gottheimer, the new chairman, is in favour of "protective" legislation for women. Perhaps it will be possible to arrive at a reasonable distinction between strictly maternity protection, which is a form of child welfare legislation, and general so-called protective legislation, affecting all women as women, which is bound to affect injuriously their economic value.

It was, as ever, an immense inspiration to meet our fellow workers. We have scattered to our homes with the warmest appreciation of the kindness and hospitality of our friends in the States, and with the conviction that the women's movement is a world-wide spiritual whole on which we hope to found for our children a heritage of peace and goodwill.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

The following are the Resolutions of most general interest to our readers, passed by the International Council's Congress:—

WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Joint Committee for the Appointment of Women to the League of Nations.

"That this International Council shall invite other international women's organisations to co-operate in forming an International Standing Committee of Women, whose object shall be to work unitedly for the appointment of suitable women on Commissions or other bodies in the League of Nations where women's opinion should be represented."

Women and the Slavery Commission of the League of Nations.

"The International Council records its regret at the omission of women from the Commission, appointed under the League of Nations, to inquire into the whole question of slavery; and in view of the many interests of womanhood that are involved, urges upon the Council of the League the immediate addition of a woman member."

Women on League of Nations Commission.

"In the event of any special department or Commission being appointed under the League of Nations on Emigration and Immigration, the International Council of Women shall urge the appointment of a woman member to represent women's international organisations."

International Labour Conference.

"The International Council of Women recommends National Councils to urge the appointment of women delegates to the International Labour Conference, and the appointment of women on the governing body of the Conference."

Nationality of Married Women.

"The International Council of Women expresses its satisfaction that the Commission appointed by the League of Nations to consider the Codification of International Law, has decided to study the question of the nationality of married women. The International Council of Women desires that one or more women lawyers be appointed to the Committee, so that women's interests will be represented."

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRALIA.

Nationality of Married Women.

Senator Benny has consented to move in the Upper Federal House a resolution similar to that passed lately by the British Parliament, in favour of a woman's right to choose her own nationality when marrying an alien. It is being arranged that a member of the House of Representatives shall move the resolution in the Lower Chamber.

Third Australian Woman M.P.

Miss Preston Stanley is the first woman member of Parliament to be returned for New South Wales, and is the third woman to be elected to the Australian States Parliaments. The first was Mrs. Cowan, O.B.E., J.P. (Western Australia, 1921-24); and the second Miss Mary Alice Holman (Western Australia, 1925), referred to in our last issue.

Women's Non-Party League of Tasmania.

In presenting the third Annual Report we are glad to be able to show considerable activity during the period under review. The League's affiliation to the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship, and in consequence to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, keeps us in touch with the concerns of women in the States of the Commonwealth of Australia, and with those of women all over the world.

An interstate conference of the Australian Federation took place in March, at which we were fortunate enough to be represented by Mrs. E. N. Nicholls, J.P., of Adelaide. This conference dealt with several important matters, and a satisfactory report was issued.

We have to congratulate the Attorney-General on the appointment of women as Justices of the Peace, and we were particularly pleased that our President, Mrs. J. G. Edwards, was among those chosen for this honour.

The position of widows and deserted wives has given the League concern all through this year. Serious consideration has been given to this problem, and the decision has been come to that the only remedy that will meet the case is widows' pensions to be granted by the Commonwealth Government, for we understand that the position of widows in the other States is very unsatisfactory.

In our opinion the support of widows and their children is as much a matter for the Commonwealth Government as is the support of the elderly and the sick. It has been decided to bring this proposal before the organisations affiliated to the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship, and to ask them to co-operate with us in an endeavour to place the support of widows on a sound basis.

The conditions existing in some of the State schools, particularly Central School, have been considered, and a deputation was organised by the League at which representatives of other organisations, and of the National Federation and the Labour Party, waited on the Minister to ask that alterations and improvements should be brought about.

Correspondence with our Federal representatives has taken place on the subject of the convention which deals with the traffic in women and children in the mandated territories, and on the conditions existing at Alice Springs, in the home for half-caste children, and on the attendance of senators in Parliament. Satisfactory replies were received as to the conditions existing in the mandated territories. The home at Alice Springs is to be rebuilt, and we are glad to acknowledge the interest taken by our representatives in this subject. Letters received in connection with the attendance of senators in Parliament show that the regulations governing this attendance is a matter for the House in question, and that alterations can be brought about.

With Colonel Snowden's appointment as Agent-General, a vacancy arose in the representation of Denison. Mrs. Waterworth, who was defeated in the last election, became a possible candidate. As she was

at the time in England, her nomination was sent by post, but owing to a technical flaw was disallowed by the Returning Officer.

The League has affiliated to the League of Nations Union, and Mrs. Edwards was appointed the representative on the general council.

The resignation of the Director of Public Health, and the Government's announcement that a part-time medical practitioner might be appointed as his successor, led to a meeting of protest being called by the Child Welfare Association, to which the League sent representatives. A deputation to the Chief Secretary followed, and a very strong protest was made against the proposal; so far the Government has made no appointment.

Towards the end of 1924 we were glad to welcome Mrs. Waterworth home, and an afternoon reception was given her at the Prince of Wales Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. E. H. Webster.

Other activities of the League of a minor nature have taken place, and we look forward to the fourth year of our existence in the hope that we may be of some service to the community.

Information has just reached us that the Government has decided to give a larger allowance to widows. We hope that in future this will become a permanent policy of the Charitable Grants Department.

E. M. GIBLIN.

AUSTRIA.

The Exhibition "The New Household."

"THE world is moving on—and the home must move too." So the ingenious Charlotte Perkins Gilman says in her world-known book "Our Home," which was translated excellently into German by Frau Marie Stritt. This book, in which a violent campaign is fought against all traditional conceptions of the sacredness and perfectness of the home, has greatly contributed to the conviction that the home cannot remain as it is. Still more obviously than the book of the famous American authoress, the economic and social revolution caused by war-events has shown us how behind-hand our home is; especially in that the household is the only institution which in the vast evolution of economics still works on obsolete, irrational methods. But the object-lesson, so mercilessly given us by war and post-war time, did not—as in the book of Charlotte Perkins Gilman—make the communal household appear desirable. On the contrary. More than ever the single household seems to be the ideal of the average man, perhaps because even the simplest man feels that culture of life may prosper best in the little home. Though the communal household should be advocated for many cases of life in large cities, where the housewife is charged with strenuous professional work, the single household will form the most prominent type of home in future times, owing to the strongly-marked desire for the preservation of private family life.

But how can the single household be improved, renewed, reformed? How can it get rid of its ballast of work that is still dragged on from former economic epochs and the mastering of which deprives the housewife of the strength and capacity to cultivate the ethical side of family-life, and to take more interest in public life? The leading Austrian women's organisations have undertaken to answer this question in a demonstrative way. They united for the arrangement of an exhibition "The New Household," which was opened at the end of April, in Vienna, and which has been a great success. In this exhibition, kitchen, housing, food, and clothing are considered. Interesting types of modern small homes with living-kitchens (wohnküchen) and kitchen corners (kochtischen) are to be seen, and beside them furniture and household requirements which are easy to clean and which correspond with the modern conceptions of beauty. In some show-kitchens, one of them an electric one, the housewife can find the most recommended inventions for cooking and baking with gas and other kinds of fuel; in

large kitchens, where cooking is going on, the spectators may watch the progress of cooking and baking during the whole day. The housewife is also being instructed in the newest methods of washing, as well as in the newest way to clean the house. A lively interest is excited by the different attempts to solve the question of the most comfortable sleeping arrangements for several members of the family in a small house, and further the endeavours to make the furniture space-saving and suitable for various purposes. It goes without saying, that the housewife finds in this exhibition also the newest kitchen-appliances that save time and strength, and mechanical helps of all kinds; she is being informed on the newest food-stuffs, on nursing of children, on occupations of children, on electric machines for sewing, embroidering and darning, on hygiene, etc. The exhibitions are completed by instructive and practical lectures on the various questions of the household, and also on connection between household and national economy, on the position of women as producers and consumers, on household bookkeeping, etc. Among the lecturers there are to be found women of all political circles.

A great success was a special exhibition, "laid tables," in connection with the big exhibition. It was arranged by the writer of this article, and showed 21 tables for the different feasts of the year and of the family, and also for the working-day and Sunday of workmen and for every day use of the middle class. This exhibition was followed by a second one, "toys and women's industries," which, being also well attended, shows how ingenious, skilful, and tasteful those Vienna women are who now-a-days make needlework and artistic fancy-work, forced by the need of our time. Very much admired is also the special exhibition "the household in the country," arranged by the member of Parliament, Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek, one of our best informed personalities on peasant's customs and life.

The Austrian women's organisations who have arranged this exhibition, among them the Austrian Council of Women, are glad to state that this first attempt to wake a livelier interest for the necessity of modern housekeeping was received most favourably. They are also happy to see that this working together has proved again the solidarity of women who are able to strive for a high aim in spite of all the contrasts in their political views.

GISELA URBAN.

GERMANY.

Biennial Meeting of the Allgemeine Deutsche Frauenverein.

THE summer 1925 seems to be the very season for important meetings and congresses of women's organisations. First, I will mention here, the 33rd Biennial of the German Auxiliary of the Alliance, the Allg. Deutsche Frauenverein (German Woman-citizen's Association), which took place in Eisenach, Thuringia, June 5 and 6. It was well attended by delegates and members of local branches, by representatives of the Eisenach city authorities, of several large women's organisations, and of political parties; and women city-councillors, as delegates of their communal bodies, were also present. The question, "How the organised woman citizens best could use their powers for the welfare of the community," was treated from various points of view.

In her presidential address, Frau von Velsen laid stress upon the difficulties women's activities, as citizens, still have to meet with; while Frau Drechsler, Hanover, showed practical ways for active, public and political work. Several local branches then reported on their efforts and successes in this respect, on their line of work—care for emigrants, for women students, for the middle classes, for children's welfare, for legal protection. Much interest was aroused in a public meeting in the evening, when Dr. Else Ulich Beil, Dresden, lectured on the comprehensive topic, "The idea of the State and women." Most ingeniously it was pointed out by the speaker, and proved with impressive instances, that woman's relations to the outer and inner politics of the State were deeply rooted in her very nature, *i.e.*, in her destination for motherhood.

The last day was devoted to communal social-political questions only. A member of the public welfare board in a rural district reported on "woman's influence in the country"; a member of the common council in Jena, on "woman's influence in the town," and many of their colleagues present took part in the lively discussion. With much interest were received finally the reports of Frau Erkens and Frau Lindemann, on the experiences made in Cologne with the women police which the English garrison had established, as a protective measure for the troops as well as for young women. These experiences, as brought forward by the police functionaries, fully justified the hope that, in future, women police will be introduced as an official institution in public life, also in German cities.

The 33rd Biennial Meeting of the oldest German organisation for women's rights and freedom has shown once more a remarkable progress in positive social work, and a fine unity among women, in woman's questions, without regard to their political views and convictions.

Convention of the Women Teachers.

The city of Dresden has again proved its well-known attraction as a convenient congress place, especially with regard to women's organisations. The first on the spot was in May, the National Association of the Reichs Post and Telegraph functionaries. Numerous delegates of its many local branches took part in the deliberations concerning the most important and burning professional questions. The city authorities paid a very kind attention to the proceedings, and all members present could leave the meeting with the satisfactory feeling that it meant a great step forward for their organisation and profession. Three weeks later, at Whitsuntide, the women teachers met for their 18th Biennial. The Allgemeine Deutsche Lehrerinnenverein, founded 1890, has developed since then into a huge organisation, embracing at present about a dozen national teachers' associations of various kinds, and a number of State organisations with about 200 local branches. Over 1,500 delegates were present at this splendid four-days' meeting which, under the admirable presidency of Frau Emmy Beckmann, Hamburg, denoted an intellectual and cultural standard that cannot be surpassed easily, and meant a significant event for the partakers. Dr. Bäumer's speech in the public evening meeting, on "Schools and Parental Rights," may be looked upon as the culmination in this respect. An infallible proof of the enormous progress in public opinion, in the last decade, with regard to the general acknowledgment and valuation of women's qualification and co-operation on all educational lines and grades, was given by the innumerable official greetings of Reichs and States, and communal authorities and bodies, and of other organisations which almost filled a whole morning's session. Of other characteristic features of this remarkable meeting which will, perhaps, be of interest also for our international friends, I will mention the impressive reports given by the foreign guests, the women teachers from Austria, Lettonia, Switzerland, and Transsylvania, on the German schools, and girls' education in their lands—and, further, the presence of the venerable founder and honorary president of the Allgemeine Deutsche Lehrerinnenverein, Dr. h.c. Helene Lange, which gave her many enthusiastic adherents most welcome opportunities to manifest their gratitude for the great leader, and to prove that hero-worship is by no means confined to the male sex.

Dresden, June 18.

MARIE STRITT.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

DURING the last month the N.U.S.E.C. has been concentrating on work in connection with the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill. Last month we pointed out some of the weak spots in this valuable but incomplete measure, and further examination has revealed more gaps and omissions. On June 8 the N.U.S.E.C., accompanied by other women's organisations, were received in deputation by the

Minister of Health, and a valuable exchange of views took place. A Conference of women's organisations, organised also by the N.U.S.E.C., was held on the 17th inst. to see if an agreed policy for women's organisations with respect to the Bill could be arrived at.

In addition to the criticism made last month with respect to the inadequate rates proposed to be given to the children of widows, and the age (14½) at which it is proposed that these allowances should cease, the National Union is now concentrating on the following points: The injustice to the permanent spinster in those cases in which she is not able to remain in industry until she is 65. Such a woman, who may have been paying contributions for more than forty years, but who finds herself at the age of 60 no longer able to get employment, and who is not in a position to afford the 1s. 1d. per week demanded of voluntary contributors, is indeed in a sorry state. She has, of course, no children to help her, and no home; and, never well paid, she is economically one of the worst-off classes in the community. It is cold comfort to her that her contributions are being used to pay for the widows who have competed with her in the labour market. Another class of women who are treated very harshly under the Bill are the women previously insured, who marry men who are poor but independent workers (such as hawkers), and who are outside the scope of this Bill. As no married women may become voluntary contributors, they can get nothing back for what they have contributed even if they live till 65, or become widowed at any age. We are anxious that both these classes should be provided for either by enabling them to insure as voluntary contributors for purposes of the old age pensions only—a matter of 4d. per week—or to receive a reduced pension at 65 in proportion to their contribution. The National Union is also working to have removed from the Bill certain regulations relating to the cancellation or disqualification for a widow's pension which do not apply to men pensioners. Although it is of great importance that the children of widows should be properly cared for by their mothers, the present Bill requires, in our opinion, drastic amendment in that it fails to protect the mother from having her children arbitrarily removed.

With regard to the inclusion in the scheme of the younger childless widow, we do not share the indignation of the editor of this paper. We agree that in many cases she stands in far less need of any pension than many other women, but recognise the difficulty of leaving out any class of widows in a contributory scheme, as most decent men wish to leave their wives some provision in all circumstances. We found ourselves, moreover, quite unable to work out any scheme for the exclusion of the younger widow which did not create a large number of hard cases. All we are now asking for, therefore, is the exclusion of the widow of any age without dependent children, who at the time of her husband's death had not been married five years, and this proposal is being put forward on the grounds (1) that such widows have not in most cases left the labour market for a sufficiently long time to have difficulty in re-entering it; (2) that it prevents the scandals which might arise from the temptation to a certain type of women to marry incurably sick men.

Parliament (Qualification of Peereesses) Bill.

Lord Astor's Bill was debated before a very full House on May 21, and was defeated by two votes. It was indeed an advance on earlier discussions, and a hopeful augury for the future. As we expected the Government's position was based on the contention that the reform of the House of Lords as a whole was soon to be considered, and that reform should not be dealt with piecemeal.

Guardianship of Infants Bill.

This Bill passed through its Committee stage in the House of Lords on June 18, as did also the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill. It was gratifying that an important amendment to the latter Bill was carried by one vote, which, initiated by the N.U.S.E.C., provided that when a separation order has been granted between a husband and wife, the Court

shall have the right to make an order dividing the furniture between the two. This will be especially useful in cases in which the woman, owing to the ill-conduct of her husband, has to make a new home for herself and the children.

N.U.S.E.C. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens.

The programme for the Summer School, which is being organised by the N.U.S.E.C. at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, from August 25 to September 8, falls into five sections as follows: (1) The Status of Women; (2) the Administration of Justice as it specially affects Magistrates; (3) Problems of urgent importance of interest to Social Workers; (4) League of Nations and International Affairs; (5) Political Party Ideals.

The section which will perhaps be of greatest interest to readers of this paper is that dealing with International Affairs, which contains the following lectures and lecturers: (a) The Protocol Pact and Security (Miss K. D. Courtney and Mrs. W. T. Layton); (b) Work of the International Labour Office (Mr. H. B. Butler, C.B., deputy director of the International Labour Office); (c) the Right of Private War (Mr. W. Arnold Foster); (d) Reparations and the Dawes Report (Mr. W. T. Layton (Editor of *The Economist*)). For further information apply to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W. 1.

Party in Honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E.

This party is being organised by the N.U.S.E.C., supported by other women's organisations, in honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, and will be held on Thursday, July 23, at Aubrey House, 11A, Aubrey Walk, Kensington, W. 8 (by kind permission of the Misses Alexander), at 3.30 p.m. It is hoped that a large gathering will be present, and that Dame Millicent's old friends will be present and speak on that occasion.

E. M. H.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The Alliance sent a representative on the deputation to the Minister of Health, organised by the N.U.S.E.C., to consider several points in connection with the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions' Bill.

On June 4, we gave a dinner in honour of Father H. F. Hall, who has lately celebrated his silver jubilee, and of Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, for many years chairman of the Society. Mrs. Crawford, in proposing the toast of Father Hall, said that suffragists were particularly grateful to him for the part he had played at the International Woman Suffrage Congress at Geneva, in 1920, when he had preached a special sermon in support of the Woman's Movement, at the Church of Notre Dame, at the Mass offered for the Congress. Miss Fedden proposed the toast of Miss FitzGerald, and spoke eloquently of her services to the women's cause during many years, and of her work for the Catholic suffrage movement in particular.

F. A. B.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We have started evening and afternoon meetings in Hyde Park (London), to urge the need for the political enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men; and to explain why we demand that women shall have absolute equality with men as regards status, opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities throughout all branches of our national life; and we are arranging a six-weeks' open-air campaign on the Clyde coast, to put these points of view before holiday makers.

With regard to the Torts (Married Women's) Bill, now before Parliament, we have urged that it is the duty of the Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women; and that it is a waste of time to pass this particular Bill, which in any case can only affect a very few men, where there are so many glaring irregularities of the law which press so heavily on women. We have again protested to the Prime Minister in regard to the Honours List, pointing out to him that the honours conferred on women are so

exceedingly few as compared with those bestowed on men; and that the honours conferred on women are practically all of the lowest grades. We have urged that since honours are given by the State for public service, and since it is recognised that women are now working upon more or less equal terms with men in all branches of our public life, the State should act impartially as between its men and women citizens and bestow public honours on those who deserve them, irrespective of their sex.

This month we are arranging a reunion of members and friends at Caxton Hall, where Mrs. Despard, our first President, will hold a reception to, and welcome all those who are interested in our work.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HUNGARY.

Local Elections in Budapest.

ON the 21st and 22nd of May we had our local elections here. It was a hard struggle between the Conservative and the Progressive parties and ended with the victory of the latter. We are pleased to record that women candidates were elected on each list; the Democratic group has now four women in the ranks of the municipal deputies, and the Conservative has two women representatives. Two of the Progressive women are our old comrades, the M.P. Miss Anna Kéty, from the Social Democratic Party, and Mrs. Szentirmai, whom we delegated when the National Democratic Party, at the last elections for the National Assembly, asked us to name a candidate. Mrs. Szentirmai was then put on the party list, but too far down to be elected. Since then she has won the confidence of the party leaders through her zeal and abilities, and we are pleased to report her election. One of the two women Conservative members is the widow of Prof. Dirner, who was the founder and the first president of the Hungarian Men's League for Woman Suffrage.

The Parliamentary Suffrage Bill.

The discussion of our constitution is progressing; at the general discussion in the Assembly some splendid speeches advocated women's equal rights. Besides the two members we mentioned in our last report, Count Apponyi and Paul Hegymegi Kiss also made magnificent speeches, and many others fought valiantly for our cause. In the detailed discussion, women's suffrage received particular attention, and every word was deliberated upon. Most members of the opposition asked for full equal rights for women, but they also objected to the discrimination against the mother of an illegitimate child, and the difference made between mothers whose three children are living or dead; and this last point was the only one which was reconsidered. Mothers of three children who voted formerly do not lose their advantage, whether the children are alive or dead.

In case this extremely Conservative Bill should pass—which, considering the strong subservient majority, is most likely—women will be at a disadvantage with men in two ways: they will vote with a higher age and educational limit.

To the women who remember the discussion of the first Suffrage Bill in Hungary, the difference of the two deliberations is most instructive and enlightening. Now that women are voters, even in this much more Conservative Parliament, women suffrage is not ridiculed or belittled as before, and even those members, like the reporter of the committee, who do not believe in equality, will sedulously seek for arguments to support their principles. "Ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte."

Lectures of Miss Emily Balch and Miss Gray.

Although the season is very far advanced, we welcomed with great pleasure our well-known faithful comrade, Miss Balch and a new friend and guest, Miss Grey, who together gave us a most interesting and instructive lecture, on the 8th June. Miss Balch spoke of her recent trip in the Near East, of the progress of the women in Turkey, of the goodwill she met for peace

questions in Roumania, and of the most interesting and successful meetings of experts against scientific warfare.

Her natural eloquence, her patient, clever and very refined way of discussion and answering, brought her sincere recognition of her talents and secured very good results for our cause.

Miss Grey lectured on the White Slave Traffic, and with interesting new facts of up-to-date history was able to throw new lights on the question. She also had a great success. This lecture will probably be the last we shall arrange this season, unless some friend of ours from abroad surprises us and gives us the pleasure of an unexpected visit.

EGGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

INDIA.

Annual Meeting of Women's Indian Association.

ONE more milestone in the life of the Women's Indian Association was passed happily on Saturday, April 11, in the big hall at the Theosophical Headquarters at Adyar, Madras, when the Annual Meeting took place. Not only was there a large number of ladies present, including many from Madras, but also an enthusiastic number of men who had gathered for the South Indian Theosophical Conference. Mrs. Jinarajadasa took the chair, and the other speakers were Mrs. Chandrasekara Iyer of Bangalore, Lady Sadasiva Iyer, and Mrs. Mahadeva Sastri. The chair gave a most satisfactory review of the work accomplished by the Association during the year, which was very attentively listened to by the men as well as the members. It is highly pleasing to see with what enthusiasm the ladies have entered into the work of the Association, and the satisfactory manner in which many are bending every effort to make life happier for those less fortunate. It was felt by all that their responsibilities in the work of the Association were without limit, for the Association stands for a bigness of heart and action not to be bound by walls, cities, or State, but embraces all of India's needs.

After the various speakers had expressed themselves, the ladies proceeded to the fine grove near the sea where a delightful picnic was served. There was tea and all the nice Indian dainties which go to make a picnic a thing to be remembered. The majority of the ladies remained to attend a drama which had been prepared for the South Indian Conference and the Women's Indian Association, and which was given in a delightful outdoor setting with the full moon in attendance. All expressed themselves as having been refreshed in every way. And so another year is before us with much work to be done. Each year finds the Association with the work satisfactorily going ahead, and with many new plans being started, for action is the very essence of the life of the Association.

The Age of Consent Bill.

We are glad to be informed that the Age of Consent Bill, that was thrown out in the last session by the Legislative Assembly, has not been really killed, and it will be brought up again in the next session in Simla. The letter that the Women's Indian Association sent to the members of the Assembly evidently had quite a definite effect, for we notice that various members quoted from it in their speeches, and the Bill was regarded sympathetically by a majority of the members. It is possible that the new Bill that will be introduced will be arranged in a different manner from the previous one, but the result will be the same. A very great deal of work must be done by women all over India to show that they approve of this Bill being passed. We have had a good deal of correspondence with women from all parts of India, and not one woman has expressed her disapproval of the age of consent being legally raised to 14. We should be interested to know what was "the great body of public opinion" to which the Government had access and which they allege was against the passing of the Bill? We have not yet heard of any body of opinion that disapproves of the age being raised to 14 except a few orthodox conservative men.

Stri Dharma.

"That the Council recommend names of suitable women to be added to the Commission."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH PEACE AND ARBITRATION.

National Councils and the League of Nations.

"The International Council hears with satisfaction of the efforts that many of the National Councils are making to ensure the success of the League of Nations. The International Council urges its constituent members to make every effort to promote the highest ideals of the League, and to use all their influence to procure the speedy inclusion of all nations."

Disarmament.

"The International Council of Women, while recognising that general disarmament is the ideal to be aimed at, considers that it might be preceded by a gradual simultaneous disarmament under effective control, to be agreed upon by the respective Governments and the League of Nations. They recognise that nations will not agree to disarm until they feel some sense of security. This Council believes that the way to establish peaceful relations among nations would be through a policy that regards neighbouring peoples as natural friends, and not as possible enemies."

Court of International Justice.

"The International Council of Women requests the members of the National Councils to urge their respective Governments to accept, if they have not already done so, the optional clause in the statute for the Court of International Justice, declaring that they are prepared to accept the jurisdiction of the court for all disputes that may come within the scope of juridical decision."

European Reconstruction.

"The International Council of Women welcomes the reconstruction schemes that are being put into effect by the League of Nations, and urges that similar schemes be put in force in countries needing and desiring such help. It hopes that these measures will lead to peace and prosperity for all, and especially that under them the interests of children will be safeguarded."

Minorities.

"The International Council of Women expresses the hope that in the countries where minorities exist, the women of those countries will endeavour to use all their influence to bring about a good understanding between their respective Governments and the minorities living in their midst."

Study of the Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

"The International Council draws the attention of its members to the spirit of the Protocol for the Pacific Settlement of international disputes drafted by the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations, and recommends careful study before the meeting of the Sixth Assembly, when the discussion on the Protocol will be renewed."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH THE EQUAL MORAL STANDARD AND TRAFFIC IN WOMEN.

Suppression of State Regulation of Prostitution.

"In view of the necessity of pursuing, without relaxation, the struggle undertaken by the International Council of Women to obtain the suppression of the State regulation of prostitution, which is morally bad, is opposed to public order, and is ineffective as a means of promoting public health, it is resolved:

"That the National Councils in those countries in which there is still State regulation of prostitution should continue to work for the suppression of regulation, which, by degrading a whole class of women, perpetrates an injustice and is an outrage against womanhood."

Convention of Geneva.

"The International Council of Women urges all women in countries not yet having ratified the Convention of Geneva, 1921, for the protection of women and children, to use all their influence to obtain ratification."

Newspaper Advertisements.

"The International Council of Women urges that measures be taken for the suppression of such newspaper advertisements as are calculated to incite immoral behaviour."

Women Police.

"The International Council of Women urges the institution, in all countries, of Women Police; with the same status and responsibilities as men in the same service."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH SUFFRAGE AND RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP.

Women's Groups in Political Parties.

"That in order to get the best results from their voting power, women, when they are enfranchised, should join political parties, and should form groups within their own parties for the discussion of the specific woman's point of view on all political questions, so as to be able to influence their respective political parties."

"Further, that these different party groups should get into touch with one another, so that when they agree on any subject they can act unitedly to further their common interests."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH EDUCATION.

Educational Opportunities for all Gifted Children.

"Whereas it is in the interest of every nation that its most intelligent citizens should have the best possible education and be enabled to use their powers for the welfare of society, regardless of class and sex, be it resolved that in all countries means should be provided by which preparation for and access to the University and to all institutions of higher learning shall be made possible for every gifted child."

Practical Teaching of Science in all Schools.

"Recognising the innumerable applications of science in everyday life at the present time, and the importance of approaching the vital questions of sex and morality from the side of natural law, the International Council of Women requests the National Councils of Women to urge in their respective countries the teaching of 'Nature Study' and simple biological facts in all the public elementary schools, and the inclusion of practical and theoretical courses of science (e.g., physics and chemistry, biology, and the laws of health) in the curriculum of the higher grade and secondary schools, both for boys and girls."

University Teaching in Domestic Science.

"That all National Councils be urged to demand in their own countries the scientific study and investigation of conditions and practice in the whole field of domestic science and of home-making in all branches which concern the family, and that the result of such investigations be made available for the use of every home. And be it further resolved that research and teaching in this field, taken in the widest sense, should be added to the already existing departments of the Universities."

Moral and Social Training of Children.

"As without more efficient moral and social training it is impossible to secure peace, it is desirable that such moral and social training be given in each country theoretically by adequate teaching in ethics and sociology, practically by the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, the Junior Red Cross, and other organisations."

Education and National Minorities.

"The International Council of Women urges that all affiliated National Councils should devote special attention to educational conditions in regions where groups of different nationalities are living together, as in districts which have changed sovereignty or in frontier zones. It urges that in the schools of such districts, as well as in every aspect of culture and education, the character and genius of each nation be fully respected."

Equal Pay for Equal Work in the Teaching Profession.

"That the International Council of Women support all movements tending towards equalisation of the

position of women in education with that of men, making salary and promotion depend on ability, learning, and experience, not on sex. It demands for women equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunity for professional advancement, including the possibility of access to University Faculties and to higher administrative positions in education."

Interchange of Teachers and Students.

"The International Council of Women favours the encouragement of the widest possible interchange of students and teachers between different countries. It believes that a first-hand knowledge of, and an insight into, the life and outlook of other nations is of vital importance in the interests of the peace of the world."

Instruction regarding the League of Nations.

"Considering the importance of the resolution of the Fourth Assembly of the League of Nations, which urges the Government of the States Members to arrange that the children and youth in their respective countries, where such teaching is not given, be made aware of the existence and aims of the League of Nations and the terms of its Covenant, the International Council of Women urges the different National Councils to bring pressure to bear on the authorities of their respective countries to ensure that such teaching is included in the code."

"In those countries which have not yet modified their teaching in the sense indicated, this would be a good opportunity for having recourse to Parliamentary intervention."

"In those countries which have already adopted the resolution, the National Councils should stimulate its application."

"In either case, the National Councils are invited to prepare a full report upon the question for the next Executive Meeting, and to incorporate it in the programme of study for the coming year."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

Opium and Dangerous Drugs.

"The International Council of Women recognises that the only effective way of combating the evil of drug-taking is for the States in which opium and coca leaves are grown to reduce the production to the medical and scientific needs of the world."

"While it is persuaded that this must be accepted as the ultimate aim, it recommends, in the necessary interval before this can be accomplished, the active support of all countries of the restrictive provisions contained in the Opium Conventions of 1912 and 1925, and calls upon the National Councils to use their influence with their Governments to this effect."

"The International Council of Women supports the suggestion made by the Second Opium Conference of the League of Nations that a Commission be appointed to study the difficulties connected with the limitation of opium production, and asks the National Councils to give consideration to the findings."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Women Officials in Legations and Consulates.

"That the National Councils be asked to urge their Governments to add responsible women officials to the staff of their Legations and Consulates for the assistance of women and children travelling abroad."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL AND PROFESSIONAL MATTERS.

Equal Professional Rights for Women.

"The International Council of Women opposes the professional inequality of women, and demands for them equal opportunities and rights within the various employments."

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

"The International Council of Women affirms the principle of 'equal pay for equal work,' which signifies that wages should be established on the basis of the occupation, and not on the basis of sex."

Maternity Provision after Confinement.

"The International Council of Women desires that the prohibition to work in the weeks before and after confinement be accompanied by a maternity provision."

The Right of Married Women to Work.

"The International Council of Women declares itself against any limitations of the work of married women apart from provisions for maternity."

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH CHILD WELFARE.

Alteration in the I.C.W. Children's Charter in Collaboration with Save the Children Fund International Union.

1. "That this meeting formally endorse the Declaration of Geneva, made by the Save the Children Fund International Union."

2. "That the National Councils be recommended to collaborate with the National Committees of the Save the Children Fund in their respective countries in preparing a Children's Charter suitable to the needs and conditions in each particular country."

3. "That these Charters, after submission to both International Organisations and approved, be published as the joint production of both organisations, and with both names printed on it."

4. "That pending the decision of the Quinquennial Council Meeting on the proposals of affiliation or some form of federation for International Societies co-operating with the International Council of Women, representatives of the International Save the Children Fund be invited to attend the meetings of the International Council of Women Child Welfare Committee."

FIRST IRISH WOMAN STOCKBROKER.

On more than one occasion in the past, Ireland has outstripped Great Britain in the race for equality between the sexes. Irishwomen became qualified both as surgeons and barristers before English women were enabled to do so; and now we hear that Miss Onah Mary Keogh, the daughter of a Dublin stockbroker, has been elected the first woman member of the Dublin Stock Exchange.

It is true that an attempt was made to alter the rules so as to compel Miss Keogh to serve three years' apprenticeship, but Miss Keogh's friends pointed out that her application was made before there was any suggestion of altering the rules, and brought strong pressure to bear on the Minister of Finance to veto any such rule. The house committee of the Exchange met to consider the question, and we are glad to learn that the sense of fair play between the sexes, which has always been among the best traditions of Irishmen, again triumphed on this particular occasion.

Stock exchanges have hitherto been jealously guarded as exclusively masculine preserves, but here and there a country has shown itself sufficiently broadminded to open the doors of these sanctuaries to women. Of such countries, America, Holland, and Germany, are shining examples, the stock exchanges of New York, Amsterdam, and Berlin, having each admitted women members on equal terms with men. *The Vote.*

HOLLAND.

BESIDES the ten political parties now represented in the Parliament, 19 other political, economic, and social groups and societies have sent in their list of candidates for the coming elections. The women M.P.'s are on a number of their lists and they probably all will be re-elected. For the women's cause it is to be hoped that the eyes of the women voters have been opened to the many setbacks the existing Government brought to the economic and social position of women, and that all will do their utmost to secure a majority for the left parties.

The elections will be held on the 1st of July.

C. KEHRER-STUART.

ITALY.

THE law for granting women the administrative vote, which was approved almost unanimously by the Chamber of Deputies last month, is meeting with some obstacles in the Senate. The Committee on the Bill strongly desires to exclude the woman who cannot read and write. If, however, such an important modification is to be introduced in one of its clauses, the Bill will have to be sent back to the Chamber to be approved again. It seems, therefore, that Signor Mussolini will have to exercise his influence on the Senate in order to induce it to approve the Bill without such a change. In that case the Bill could actually become law in a few days.

Last week the Senate gave its approval to a Bill which is of great interest to women; namely, that dealing with the protection of infancy and maternity. Under this Bill an organisation would be established, with headquarters in Rome, to be called the Opera Nazionale, which would be at the head of all institutions which provide for the care of infancy and maternity. It would largely be endowed by the State, funds being allotted according to its permanent or temporary needs. It would occupy itself not only with material assistance, but would work under the inspiration of the Belga Law, which deals in the most complete manner with the supervision and care of children and adolescents who are either orphans, or are abandoned, or inefficiently looked after by their families. It would prohibit children from attending cinemas unless accompanied by an adult, and would also forbid their employment in cinematograph performances, in circuses, and in music halls. It would also be forbidden to supply alcoholic or fermented liquor to children under seven years of age, as also, in certain cases, to supply adolescents with tobacco. A central committee would be appointed, and also provincial committees, to supervise the administration of the law. Women are to take part in these committees.

PAOLA BENEDETTINI ALFERAZZI.

June 15, 1925.

JUGO-SLAVIA.

We are glad to learn from "Zenski Pokret" that there is good hope that Melle. Milena Atanatzkovich will be appointed as one of the delegates of the Jugo-Slavia Government to the next assembly of the League of Nations. Melle. Atanatzkovich is shortly sitting for her examination at the School of Diplomatic Studies. If this appointment is made, Jugo-Slavia will be giving a very good example to some of the other countries where the position of women is considered to be very "advanced."

NEW ZEALAND.

Not much of national importance with regard to women has taken place lately, chiefly because Parliament has been in recess for some months. That is not to say that women are not progressing—far from it; but women are not yet making themselves felt in big questions affecting the community as a whole. We have now a dietitian attached to the Dunedin General Hospital—an American lady, Miss Wells; and I understand she is the only one in this country acting as a professional dietitian in charge of a large public institution.

At the recent municipal elections women contested seats, but without success. They managed to gain places on hospital boards, and some education boards have also recognised women's capabilities and interest by electing a few to official recognition.

The question of mental defectives has been brought to the fore lately, and the lady who was appointed in connection with social welfare work has accepted a position of somewhat wider scope. She is now secretary of the Women's section of the International Exhibition to be opened in November in Dunedin. Already several committees have been appointed to represent all activities of women in the Dominion, and broadcasting has been used to reach the remote settlements. This section of the exhibition promises to be a great success, and the directors of the whole scheme are doing their best to help women in any way possible.

M. S. PRIMMER.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE season of conventions is over. Organised women of the United States, who for several months have been absorbed in the multitudinous details and demands of national gatherings are, for the most part, turning their time and thoughts to a less intensive summer programme than has been their practice in the last few years.

Many reasons may be assigned for this. It is not a so-called political year, only small municipal elections being held; it is not a summer of special campaigns, or the launching of a new movement. It is not to be a summer of inactivity, however, for, if the plans of the National League of Women Voters are taken as an indication of the trend of women's interests, even throughout the warm summer months no time will be lost in carrying on the year's work and in laying the ground-work for a heavy calendar in the fall and winter months.

League headquarters, in Washington—just across the way from the imposing State, War, and Navy Building, and only a stone's throw from the White House—will be open throughout the summer. To be sure, Miss Belle Sherwin, League President, will be vacationing for several weeks (she is planning a short holiday in Ireland), and there will be many readjustments to meet the vacation period, but League work will not stop just because it is summer.

League women, who are looking forward to December 17 as the day set aside for the consideration of the World Court by the United States Senate, hope to devote many a warm summer day for the promotion of country-wide sentiment in favour of the World Court. They will take advantage of summer gatherings, in the mountains and on the sea-shore, to present arguments for American adherence to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The League's headquarters was a historic setting for a tea given in June to Miss Lucille Atcherson, of Columbus, Ohio, and Miss Pattie Field, of Denver, the only two women in the diplomatic service of the United States. Five hundred women, representing official, diplomatic, and social Washington, bade farewell to Miss Atcherson, who has already left for her first foreign assignment, that of third secretary of the American Legation, at Berne, Switzerland. At the same time, the guests had the first opportunity of greeting Miss Field, who very recently passed the diplomatic examinations and is taking up her new work at the State Department Offices, in Washington. Miss Belle Sherwin, President, and two Vice-presidents, Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, and Miss Adele Clark, of Richmond, Va., received with the honour guests. Madame Branko Adjemovitch, wife of the secretary of the Serbian Legation, was at the tea table.

The function was one of the many which the League has given to honour women who have attained high official honours. It is a practice, which the League has carried out since its organisation in 1920, to give approval, and voice its belief "that qualified women in administrative offices, upon boards and commissions, and in legislative bodies, will contribute a necessary point of view of government in the United States and to its international relations."

Special interest was shown in the fact that this tea was held in a house one hundred years old, and well-known for its part in historical happenings. Many pages in American history have been written within the four walls of this old house, especially when Susan B. Anthony helped Clara Barton pack her trunks, on the eve of Miss Barton's departure for Near East work; when President Lincoln frequently called on General Grant, in what was then the General's headquarters; and when the American Red Cross used it for its second headquarters.

In the calm which follows all conventions, it is interesting to note the high-lights of the official report of the League's get-out-the-vote committee, upon which was based the award of the silver loving cup to the California League of Women Voters, for having the highest percentage of increase in the presidential vote of 1924 over that of 1920. West Virginia is entitled to all honours for good voting habits, because 76.99 per cent. of its eligible voters participated in the presidential

election. Thirty-two states are included in the list of those having good voting habits—a designation given to those states in which fifty per cent. of the eligible voters went to the 1924 polls. Of those states, eighteen were west of the Mississippi and fourteen in the northern and eastern sections of the country. Thirty-one states increased their vote in 1924 over the 1920 record, while seventeen states had decreases. It is interesting to find, however, that several states, including Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Ohio, which had a similar vote in 1924, are at the same time considered in the family of good voting habits.

Miss Mildred Stahl, of Kokomo, Indiana, is the winner of the first fellowship ever offered by the National League. It has been established for the "study of the American-Indian problem, the successive policies of the Government, and the contemporary administration of Indian affairs." Miss Stahl will begin her studies next September, at the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government, in Washington. The fellowship has been established in order to secure an authoritative academic review of the general Indian problem before the League proceeds to include the subject in its study programme.

Whenever Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania, who is now vacationing abroad, has anything to say about politics, it is always of interest to her many national and international friends. A few of her recent utterances are:

"I have never been interested in helping women get the vote in order that they should be voted in herds by the party leaders on either side. Merely to swell the number of votes cast on election day, is not necessarily of value. Far from that, I have always wanted to see them get inside the parties, and work there aggressively, courageously, and intelligently; men and women side by side, of course. I do not believe in separate political groups.

"One of the contributions I hope to see women make, is to challenge the emptiness of party formulae, to give themselves over to re-establishing definite meanings in party platforms, to insist that these shall show, concretely and definitely, ability to meet our problems as they arise from day to day, and that the appeal made in the name of party loyalty—which, of all things, irritates women the most—shall be backed up by a new inspiration within the party, and a renewed dedication to the ideals which we all have in our minds. There will be no need, then, to demand that women vote the straight ticket, when parties understand this."

ANNE WILLIAMS.

CORRESPONDENCE

May 30, 1925.

Editor of the INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE NEWS.

Dear Madam,

I had meant to send you a last report on the women's clubs in Beyrouth before this, but I fell ill in Beyrouth and spent three weeks in the American hospital there. On the day that I was to address the 25 women's clubs, at the Hostel for Nurses and other women visitors to Beyrouth, I entered the Eye Pavilion. I had, however, been at their other meetings and saw a very well-conducted gathering that was to receive the report of delegates of 25 women's associations on three questions—chiefly as to a scheme of federation, whether they would agree to use only "homespun," etc.

Several of the women were writers or publishers of women's magazines or children's periodicals. Others were wives of professors and teachers, or teachers themselves. But it was a very successful attempt to bring together in common interests, Protestants, Catholics, Druses, and Moslems—a rare thing in that country, so long torn between religious animosities.

A bombshell was exploded in their midst when an American investigator spoke to them for ten minutes about her quest in connection with the white slave traffic—of which some had heard for the first time. To learn that there were 600 prostitutes in their town was a shock to them; and some are now looking into the question of the working of the French and British mandates.

The tragedy of seeing intelligent women of good education obliged to wear the black veil was borne in upon me after the comparative freedom of the Turkish women. But they confessed they had no "Mustapha Kemal" to settle the question for them. It is a matter for men here, pure and simple, to agree on a system of toleration among themselves, and no longer insist on a girl being taken as a wife without being seen by any man, not even her future husband. They dread the sheiks among the Druses, and the immams or hojas among the Moslems. It is a matter for men to put an end to—and the end is in sight, for I have had conversations with several of these younger men who have declared that they will marry no girl without having seen her and talked with her.

There is a little more hope for the woman in Syria under the French mandate, now that at last the French woman seems to be given at least the municipal vote. At any rate, these Syrians have been watching for some time what was done for the woman under the British mandate in Palestine, and have noted that they were, if not given the vote, put on consultative councils and asked their views.

From Beyrouth the women are spreading their activities to the villages.

Yours faithfully,

E. F. RIEDER
(Mme. André Rieder).

THE INTER-AMERICAN UNION OF WOMEN.

Although several paragraphs in the article from the United States last month were devoted to the meeting of the above international body of women—for we may surely call it so since it includes women from all the many nations of both the American continents—yet we think our readers may care to have the following list of its official aims:—

To co-ordinate the efforts of the women of all the American nations for the following purpose:

1. To promote the education of women and to encourage higher standards.
2. To work for the social welfare of women and children.
3. To obtain and enforce civil and political rights for women.
4. To safeguard the rights of women who work.
5. To attain for women the highest opportunity to cultivate and use the talents God has given them.
6. To stimulate friendship and understanding among the American nations with the aim of maintaining justice and permanent peace in the Western hemisphere.

In addition to the officers named in the preceding article, we learn that Mrs. Thorburn, of Canada, was elected treasurer, and the board of directors are Senora Jean T. Raynes (Argentina), Senorita Elena Torres (Mexico), and Senora Milagros Benet de Mewton (Porto Rico).

The programme of the conference which is now in our hands was a most interesting one, dealing with education, industrial and professional problems, etc. It was accompanied by such a wealth of hospitality that the delegates must have wondered at their own capacity to combine work and play. A novel dinner was given under the auspices of Mrs. Chapman Catt, at which 12 of the delegates spoke of "a dozen wishes of any intelligent woman."

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SERVICE.

The International Migration Service was organised four years ago by the World's Young Women's Christian Association, but in October last it began a separate existence with an office in London. We now learn that in order to be in closer touch with other international bodies it is moving its headquarters to Geneva, where its address will be 10, Rue de la Bourse, Geneva, Switzerland.

BOOK REVIEW.

CALLINICUS: A DEFENCE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE. By J. B. S. HALDANE, Sir William Dunn Reader in Bio-Chemistry, Cambridge University. 2s. 6d. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., London. 1925.

Our readers may remember that in our issue of August-September, 1924, we reviewed a book by J. B. S. Haldane called "Daedulus." We have now before us another book by him "Callinicus: a Defence of Chemical Warfare."

We are all agreed that one of the main objects of the thinking woman of the world is the prevention of war. We have, perhaps, so concentrated on this idea of prevention of war that we have forgotten how we may make wars—if they should break out in spite of us—less horrible, less productive of those pitiful fragments of men—and women too—that were the disjecta of the last war. Led by the ideas formulated during the war, we have classed "chemical warfare," that is the use of poison gases and their kin, as the most horrible of war devices. Were we—are we—right in this? Mr. Haldane answers emphatically that we were not and are not.

He begins by classing war as something similar to epidemic disease, a thing that can be prevented only by a scientific study of its causes. This is a most pregnant idea for women to study. As a sex we are—very like our "opposite number" the man—prone to appeal to sentiment for the prevention of war, forgetting that war is essentially a result of uncontrolled emotion—a thing born rather of the solar plexus than of the brain. Hence Mr. Haldane's acid statement that "future governments will not enter on war without first persuading the vast majority of the people of its justice. This appears to be a relatively simple process under modern conditions."

Mr. Haldane traces the evolution of killing devices from the "Greek fire" of Callinicus (which he considers prolonged the life of the Eastern Roman Empire for 750 years, and saved a large part of Christendom from Mahomedan dominion), through gunpowder to gas.

Poisonous gasses he classifies into four kinds, and this clear and simple definition should be of great use to those who wish to understand the question.

Mr. Haldane emphatically declares that from his own personal experience of being wounded, asphyxiated, and buried alive, the pain and discomfort arising from the last two is utterly negligible compared with those produced by a "good septic" shell wound.

Mustard gas caused 150,000 casualties in the British army; of these only 1 in 40 died, and 1 in 200 became permanently unfit. Mr. Haldane comments mordantly on the Washington Conference agreement not to use this substance, which he traces to the ignorance of politicians and the tenacious conservatism of soldiers who hate novelties in warfare.

What he calls the Bayardists have collected a curious assortment of allies: "pacifists" who hope to prevent war by restricting means of fighting; sentimentalists, who accept time-honoured methods, but attack in the name of their god or their ideals any novelty or any attempt at the solution of human problems by honest and simple intellectual effort; candid reactionaries, who believe that mankind has taken the wrong path and would turn him into the right one.

Mr. Haldane reminds us that there is a resistant class—20 per cent. of the white men tested, and 80 per cent. of the negroes—who appear to be immune to the effects of mustard gas. He pictures a gas warfare of the future based on temporary disablement instead of killing or maiming, dependent on the highest capacity for organisation and co-ordination, and producing a comparatively rapid conclusion.

He further ridicules the idea that aeroplanes dropping gas-bombs will be more dangerous to undefended cities and their people than those dropping explosives, provided always that for purposes of morale only, the people are educated in the manner of dealing with gas. Knowledge is power is the burden of this homily.

Mr. Haldane's book ridicules all things sacred, from the Chevalier Bayard to prime ministers, bishops, and

sentimentalists. But he shows very clearly that "chemical warfare" is but the last phase in the long chain of progress that has gradually made war less horrible, less destructive of life, and more dirigible by brain as opposed to mere brawn.

In fact the essence of the book is its call to all of us to use our brains. Is it certain that in forcing our governments to sign the Washington Agreement we are really doing the right thing? This little book should lead us at least to study the question in all its aspects, before we take up our stand. M. H.

SLAVERY COMMISSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

IN the first instance, the Secretary General of the League issued a questionnaire to the various Governments in whose dominions slavery, in one form or another, was reported to exist. They were asked to state:

1. What measures had been taken to suppress slavery?
2. What had been the economic and social results of these measures?
3. Whether further measures were in contemplation?

The Commission set up to examine these reports were puzzled from the outset as to the scope of their enquiry, and came to the conclusion that the Council of the League had been purposely vague, leaving it to the members of the Commission, as experts, to formulate their own programme. The Commission, therefore, suggested to the Council that their enquiry should cover the following ground:

1. The enslaving of persons.
 - (a) Slave raiding and the slave trade.
 - (b) Slave dealing (including transferring of slaves by exchange, sale, gift, or inheritance).
 - (c) Slavery or serfdom (domestic or predial).
2. Practices restrictive of personal freedom, or tending to acquire control of the person in conditions analagous to slavery; as for example:
 - (a) Acquisition of girls by purchase disguised as payment of dowry, it being understood that this does not refer to normal marriage customs.
 - (b) Adoption of children, of either sex, with a view to their virtual enslavement, and of the ultimate disposal of their persons.
 - (c) All forms of pledging or reducing to servitude of persons for debt or other reasons.
3. Measures to check above practices.
4. System of compulsory labour, public or private, paid or unpaid.

The Commission seemed very nervous of presenting the appearance of encroaching on the internal affairs of the various States. They were also very cautious as regards domestic slavery. This was defined by the Belgian Government as follows: Domestic slavery is a condition consecrated by native custom in which either by the will of another person, or by birth, or sometimes of his own free will, a person is placed in relation to another in a position analagous to that of the goods and chattels of the latter. Distinct from slavery it only affects the natives.

Finally, the Commission recommend that slavery must be regarded from a comprehensive standpoint, and that the Commission should endeavour to indicate some practical measures calculated to ensure the gradual suppression of slavery and analagous forms of servitude, and to facilitate the development of the social and economic conditions which should succeed it.

LEONORA DE ALBERTI, Hon. Sec.,
Council for the Representation of
Women in the League of Nations.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

It is regretted that owing to pressure on our space, the continuation of the article on "Family Wages" has had to be omitted. It will appear next month.

THE EDITOR.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

CONTRE LA TRAITE DES FEMMES.

La commission de la Société des Nations pour la traite des femmes et la protection de l'enfance qui vient de siéger à Genève, a discuté les rapports annuels des associations bénévoles. Le docteur Cohen a présenté à la commission le rapport de l'Association israélite pour la protection des femmes et des jeunes filles pour 1924.

La commission a ensuite pris connaissance des rapports des associations internationales féminines et de la Fédération des unions nationales des amis de la jeune fille, sur le développement de leur activité.

La commission a nommé une sous-commission composée de MM. Carton de Wiart (Belgique), Regnault (France), Harrys (Angleterre), Posner (Pologne), Cohen, de l'association juive pour la protection des femmes, pour étudier un projet de résolution présenté par le délégué de la France relativement à l'aide et à l'assistance, par les associations bénévoles, des prostituées étrangères expulsées.

Enfin, elle a entendu un rapport, présenté par Mme. Luisi (Uruguay), sur la limite de l'âge d'irresponsabilité de la fille mineure dans les délits de mœurs et l'âge légal de mariage,* ainsi qu'une réponse du gouvernement anglais au questionnaire sur les maisons de tolérance.

La commission a ensuite abordé la discussion générale des questions de la protection de l'enfance. Elle a pris connaissance du rapport présenté par le secrétaire de la commission.

Une discussion s'est engagée sur l'organisation de la commission. Cette dernière a pris connaissance du mémorandum présenté par Miss Grace Abbott, des Etats-Unis, tendant à scinder la commission en deux parties, dont l'une s'occuperait de la traite des femmes et l'autre de la protection de l'enfance.

Pour étudier cette question, la commission a nommé une sous-commission composée de représentants de la France, des Etats-Unis, de l'Italie, de la Grande-Bretagne, de la Belgique, du Danemark, et de l'Uruguay.

— La Française.

LA BULGARIE.

[Notre Présidente a reçu la lettre suivante de l'Union des Femmes Bulgares dont la publication permettra aux femmes de la Bulgarie d'exprimer leur dévotion à la cause de la paix.—LA RÉDACTION.]

A Mme. La Présidente de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

Le 20 mai, 1925.

Chère Madame,

Depuis la fin de la guerre mondiale et surtout depuis quelques mois notre pays passe des moments pleins d'épreuves et de douleurs qui, tout en empêchant son libre développement, menacent non seulement sa paix intérieure mais aussi celle de l'Europe entière.

Il n'est pas notre intention d'entrer dans des explications des raisons politiques qui ont mené notre pays à cet état, ni de discuter ces raisons. Mais tout en appréciant l'impartialité des grandes unions féminines, qui seule pourrait contribuer à établir la paix et la fraternité entre les peuples, nous nous permettons, Madame la Présidente, de vous exposer l'état actuel des choses en Bulgarie, tel que nous le voyons. Car nous ne voudrions pas que les grandes organisations féminines, dont notre Conseil National des Femmes a l'honneur d'être le membre, se fassent une fausse idée de notre patrie et la jugent comme un pays où l'anarchie et le désordre complet règnent.

* La Commission a accepté d'étudier ces deux questions présentées par Dr. Luisi. On a voté la définition suivante: "Par l'âge de consentement on envisage l'âge au-dessous duquel le consentement de la victime ne peut être admis comme atténuation de peine dans délits contre les mœurs." —LA RÉDACTION DE "JUS SUFFRAGII."]

La Bulgarie a mené, au nom de son unité nationale, deux guerres l'une après l'autre, dont elle est sortie vaincue et avec des pertes énormes. Tout le monde connaît les conditions de paix qui lui ont été imposées à Bucarest (1913) et à Neuilly (1919). La Bulgarie a dû accepter ces conditions et elle emploie tous ses efforts de les accomplir loyalement et d'assainir autant que possible les plaies profondes que la guerre a ouvertes dans sa vie économique, politique, et intellectuelle. Cette double obligation est pourtant une tâche dure qu'aucun des gouvernements qui se sont succédés depuis la conclusion de la paix n'a pas pu résoudre d'une manière tout à fait satisfaisante.

L'Etat a d'un côté à payer des dettes de réparations qui sont bien au-dessus de ses forces budgétaires, d'un autre il est obligé de contenter les besoins d'une population appauvrie et qui a subi des dommages énormes par la guerre. Privé d'une armée régulière qui pourrait garantir le mieux l'ordre intérieur, peu soutenu de dehors dans ses efforts de ramener le pays à la vie normale d'avant la guerre, le gouvernement actuel se voit presque dans l'impossibilité de lutter contre le danger communiste croissant chaque jour. Plusieurs fois, et tout récemment encore, le gouvernement a adressé aux Grandes Puissances la prière de permettre à la Bulgarie d'avoir une armée régulière. Que cette armée ne pourrait présenter une menace pour les Etats voisins est évident: la Bulgarie maintes fois plus petite que ces derniers, épuisée des guerres, n'est pour aucun d'eux un voisin dangereux et elle leur a témoigné à chaque occasion son désir sincère de vivre en paix avec eux. L'armée qu'elle demande lui servira de garder l'ordre dans le pays et d'empêcher la propagande communiste et bolchevique pour laquelle la Bulgarie présente malheureusement un domaine propice, étant donné surtout sa position géographique et son voisinage avec la Russie. Le mécontentement général des résultats de la guerre, les fuitifs arrivant continuellement de la Macédoine et de la Thrace et augmentant la misère du pays—tout cela contribue énormément à cette propagande, qui n'est peut-être nulle part si forte qu'en Bulgarie. Les résultats en sont connus: des meurtres politiques devenus fréquents, des bandes de brigands sur les routes, un attentat contre le roi et, immédiatement après, l'attentat dans la cathédrale de Sofia qui a pris des centaines de victimes—voici les tristes conséquences d'une propagande fanatisée dans un pays où le peuple n'a comme arme de défense que son amour pour la paix et son bon sens qui le fait se dégoûter de ces moyens de lutte politique.

Ce bon sens est très fort chez les Bulgares qui, malgré toutes les épreuves subies, sont restés étrangers aux idées bolcheviques et révolutionnaires. Tout en aimant sa terre natale, le Bulgare respecte ce sentiment chez les autres. Dans les jours de détresse il a gardé le sens d'ordre et de respect pour les lois auxquelles il obéit sans réserve. Mais dans ses efforts de rétablir la paix et l'ordre dans son pays le peuple bulgare a besoin de l'aide de tous les peuples civilisés. Qu'ils lui témoignent la confiance qu'il a toujours tâché de mériter, qu'ils apprécient ses efforts d'aboutir à la paix, d'autant plus que la paix rétablie en Bulgarie sera une garantie pour la paix durable dans l'Europe entière.

C'est au nom de cette paix, l'idéal commun de toutes les femmes, que nous nous adressons à vous, Madame, avec la prière de croire que les meurtres et les attentats en Bulgarie ne sont pas l'œuvre du peuple entier, mais d'un groupe de fanatiques égarés. Nous vous prions encore d'employer votre influence et celle de l'Union dont vous êtes la présidente en faveur de ce peuple qui a donné tant de victimes pendant les guerres et qui ne mérite pas d'être puni pour des fautes et des crimes dont il est profondément dégoûté.

Veillez agréer, Madame, l'assurance de notre respect le plus distingué.

Dr. B. BERON, la vice-présidente.

Dr. F. DRAGNEVA, la secrétaire.

L'Union des Femmes Bulgares, Sofia.

LA FRANCE.

Le Congrès de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

Le Congrès National de l'U.F.S.F. qui s'est tenu à Grenoble a pleinement réussi. Malgré la distance, les groupes même les plus éloignés avaient tenu à se faire représenter. C'est ainsi qu'aux nombreuses suffragettes du Sud-Est et du Midi s'étaient jointes des délégués du Morbihan, du Gers, de la Charente-Inférieure, du Bas-Rhin, etc.

Plus de quarante départements étaient représentés. Nous tenons à annoncer la formation de la Fédération suffragiste du Sud-Est qui comprend les groupes du Rhône, de la Loire, de la Saône-et-Loire, de l'Ain, de la Savoie, de la Haute-Savoie, de l'Isère, de la Drôme et de l'Ardèche. Mme. Vallé-Genairon, présidente du groupe de Saône-et-Loire, a été désignée comme secrétaire générale, et Mme. Guicé, de Chambéry, secrétaire générale adjointe. M. Mistral, député et maire de Grenoble, présida le meeting du 31 mai: son discours nettement favorable à nos droits fut très applaudi, et les orateurs inscrits, M. Morin, Mmes. Collombel, Brunschvig et Malaterre-Sellier reçurent de tous un accueil chaleureux dont ils conserveront un excellent souvenir. C. B.

Les Annulations Commencent.

Trois des élections de conseillères municipales ont été déjà annulées par le Conseil de préfecture.

Nous ne savons pas encore ce qu'ont décidé les élus ainsi évincés.

Chez les Avocats.

Les avocats ont tenu à Lille un Congrès au cours duquel ils ont procédé à la réélection des membres du Comité de direction sortants et à l'élection de quatre nouveaux membres.

Nous relevons avec plaisir parmi ces derniers le nom de Mme. Suzanne Grimberg, présidente du Club de Paris.

A force de talent, et de patience aussi, les avocates font peu à peu la conquête du Palais. Il faut les en féliciter.—*La Française*

LES FEMMES AVIONS.

MONSIEUR P. ET. FLANDIN, Député, qui est actuellement à la Chambre rapporteur de la question du Suffrage des Femmes, a adressé à l'Union Française une lettre dont nous publions, ci-dessous, de larges extraits.

Cette lettre pose, en effet, un cas fort intéressant. L'Union Française serait très heureuse que toutes les Sociétés affiliées à l'Alliance Internationale agissent auprès des délégués de leur Gouvernements à la Commission permanente de Navigation aérienne afin que, lors de sa prochaine réunion au mois d'octobre, cette Commission soit à nouveau saisie de la question et puisse prendre la décision qu'exige la justice et l'intérêt des femmes. GERMAINE MALATERRE-SELLIER.

Paris le 11 Juin 1925.

A Madame Malaterre-Sellier.

Madame,—Je me permets de vous signaler un cas assez intéressant en ce qui concerne l'égalité des femmes et des hommes devant la loi. Il s'agit d'aéronautique.

Une convention internationale signée en 1919 et annexée au Traité de paix a prévu que les brevets de pilote délivrés par l'un des Etats contractants seraient valables sur le territoire de tous les Etats signataires de la convention. La même convention a prévu qu'une commission permanente réglerait les conditions de délivrance de ces brevets de pilotage. La question est venue plusieurs fois devant cette Commission, où j'ai l'honneur de représenter le Gouvernement français. A sa dernière session, tenue à Londres, au mois d'avril dernier, a été soulevée la question de savoir si une femme pouvait obtenir le brevet de pilote pour les avions de transports publics. Malgré l'opposition de la Délégation française, qui a soutenu l'affirmative, la question a été résolue par la négative.

Or cette décision lèse particulièrement des femmes pilotes d'avion qui, jusqu'à présent, ont pu bénéficier des brevets officiels de pilote.

Melle. Bollard qui s'est distinguée par des exploits aéronautiques remarquables, notamment par la traversée de la Cordillère des Andes, se verra donc retirer son brevet de pilote d'avion de transports publics par l'autorité française, en exécution des décisions prises par la Commission permanente de navigation aérienne. Ce fait lui causera un préjudice certain, car son gagne-pain est son métier de pilote, qu'elle exerce courageusement, sans avoir jamais eu le moindre accident grave.

J'ai été très surpris que dans la discussion de cette importante question, la Délégation française se trouve seule à soutenir la thèse favorable aux femmes. Il me semble que cette question pourrait être portée devant l'Alliance Internationale qui n'a pas seulement en vue, je crois, l'extension des droits politiques des femmes, mais la défense de leurs capacités civiles et professionnelles. Il me semble aussi que la section française pourrait prendre l'initiative de protester auprès du Gouvernement contre cette décision, ce qui nous permettrait peut être de reprendre la question à la prochaine réunion de la Commission de Navigation aérienne qui doit avoir lieu au mois d'octobre. Enfin, j'estime que les sections étrangères et notamment la section britannique pourraient intervenir auprès de leurs Gouvernements respectifs pour obtenir que lors d'une nouvelle discussion le point de vue des délégués de ces Gouvernements soit favorable à la thèse française.

Je me permets d'ajouter que l'incapacité, pour la femme, d'obtenir le brevet de pilote se justifie d'autant moins que les conditions d'aptitudes physiques sont extrêmement rigoureuses. Ces conditions étant applicables à tout candidat, homme ou femme, permettraient d'éliminer les candidates ne les remplissant pas. Je trouve inadmissible que lorsque ces conditions physiques sont remplies par une femme, on lui refuse son brevet de pilote d'avion de transports publics pour la seule raison qu'elle appartient au sexe féminin.

Sans doute la question peut ne pas paraître avoir une grande importance au point de vue pratique actuellement; elle lèse cependant les intérêts de plusieurs femmes et je pense que pour l'avenir, l'intérêt, aujourd'hui théorique, peut devenir un intérêt pratique. Il n'y a aucune raison valable, à mon sens, pour qu'une femme soit autorisée à conduire une automobile et se voit interdire d'emmener des passagers en avion.

signé P. ET. FLANDIN.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Grande-Bretagne.

Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité Civique.

L'Union s'est occupée spécialement du projet de loi sur les pensions aux veuves, orphelins et vieillards. Le 8 juin, une délégation de l'Union et des autres sociétés féministes a été reçue par le ministre de l'hygiène, et un échange de vues intéressant a eu lieu. Outre les critiques faites le mois dernier sur la pension aux veuves, l'Union a discuté les points suivants: l'injustice faite aux femmes célibataires qui ne peuvent toucher une pension qu'à 65 ans, alors qu'après avoir payé leur cotisation pendant 40 ans elles peuvent se trouver sans travail à 60 ans. Une autre classe lésée par la loi est celle des femmes assurées qui épousent un travailleur indépendant non assuré et qui perdent le bénéfice de leur assurance, parce qu'on refuse aux femmes mariées le droit de payer leur cotisation. L'Union propose qu'elles puissent recevoir une pension de vieillesse ou une retraite proportionnelle à leurs cotisations précédentes. Pour les veuves sans enfants, l'Union demande que la pension ne leur soit servie que si elles ont été mariées au moins cinq ans.

Entrée des Paires à la Chambre des Lords.—Le projet de loi de Lord Astor a été discuté le 21 mai et rejeté à deux voix de majorité. C'est un progrès sur les discussions antérieures et la défaite est due au projet de réforme générale de la Chambre des Lords.

Tutelle des enfants.—La projet de loi a passé à la Commission de la Chambre des Lords le 18 juin, de même que le projet sur la séparation et la pension alimentaire; pour ce dernier, un amendement important

a été ajouté: qu'en cas de séparation, la Cour aura le droit d'ordonner le partage des meubles.

Cours de vacances pour magistrats et les citoyennes.—Les cours organisés par l'Union auront lieu à St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, du 25 août au 8 septembre. Ils comprennent 5 sections: (1) le statut des femmes; (2) l'administration de la justice; (3) problèmes d'un intérêt urgent pour les œuvres sociales; (4) Société des nations et affaires internationales; (5) idéaux des partis politiques. Pour plus ample information, s'adresser à la Secrétaire de l'Union Nationale: The Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W. 1.

Réception en l'honneur de Dame Millicent Fawcett.—Cette réception aura lieu jeudi 23 juillet à Aubrey House, 11a, Aubrey Walk, à 3h30.

Ligue pour la liberté des femmes.

La Ligue a organisé des réunions à Hyde Park, Londres, pour expliquer la nécessité de l'égalité civile des deux sexes; une campagne de 6 semaines sur la côte de la Clyde continuera la propagande.

La Ligue considère la nouvelle loi sur les pensions comme une perte de temps; c'est une loi d'égalité générale des deux sexes qu'elle demande.

La Ligue a protesté auprès du Premier Ministre contre l'injuste répartition des titres honorifiques; les titres accordés aux femmes sont rares et sont toujours les moins élevés.

Ligue de l'Empire britannique.

C'est le nouveau titre de la "Ligue pour l'égalité civile dans l'Empire britannique." Elle est affiliée à l'Alliance internationale, mais elle s'occupera spécialement d'assurer "l'égalité des libertés, des statuts et des possibilités" entre les hommes et les femmes de l'Empire. Le quartier général est: 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, London, W.C. 2. Le programme comprend: (1) l'étude des droits et statuts des femmes, extension et usage de ces droits dans l'Empire; (2) Mesures de réalisation.

Alliance politique et sociale Sainte Jeanne.

L'Alliance a donné un dîner en l'honneur de Miss Fitzgerald et du Rev. Père Hall pour fêter son jubilé. Au Congrès du Suffrage international, à Genève, en 1920, le père Hall a prononcé un sermon en faveur du mouvement féministe, à la messe offerte au Congrès à Notre Dame.

Irlande.

Miss Keogh vient d'être élue agent de change. On sait que l'Irlande a souvent devancé l'Angleterre en matière féministe et qu'elle a eu des avocates et des femmes médecins et chirurgiens avant elle. Mais c'est la première fois qu'une femme est admise à la Bourse de Dublin. L'Amérique, la Hollande et l'Allemagne ont depuis longtemps donné l'exemple, mais la Bourse de Londres reste fermée aux femmes.

Australie.

Nationalité de la femme mariée.—Le Sénateur Benny a présenté une résolution semblable à celle du Parlement britannique, afin que la femme mariée puisse choisir sa nationalité.

Troisième Australienne au Parlement.—Miss Preston Stanley est la première femme du Parlement de la Nouvelle Galles du Sud, et la troisième du Parlement d'Australie.

Ligue "non-party" Tasmanienne.—La Ligue s'est occupée tout l'hiver de la situation des femmes veuves ou abandonnées; elle demande une pension pour les veuves chargées d'enfants. Cette demande sera appuyée par la fédération australienne. Le Gouvernement vient d'augmenter l'allocation aux veuves; c'est un commencement. L'attorney général a nommé plusieurs femmes juges de paix.

Italie.

La loi accordant le vote administratif aux femmes rencontre des obstacles au Sénat; celui-ci désire en exclure les femmes qui ne savent pas lire et écrire; si cette modification est votée, le projet devra retourner à la Chambre. On espère que Mussolini exercera son influence.

La semaine dernière, le Sénat a approuvé un projet de loi relatif à la protection des femmes et des enfants.

Suivant cette loi, une société appelée Œuvre nationale, dont le siège social serait à Rome, dirigerait toutes les institutions qui s'occupent de la maternité, de l'enfance, des orphelins, des enfants abandonnés ou négligés, etc. Cette œuvre serait largement subventionnée par l'Etat. Si la loi passe, il sera défendu d'employer les enfants dans les cinémas, de les laisser entrer seuls dans les salles de spectacles, de leur servir des boissons alcooliques ou du tabac, etc. Des femmes feront partie des Comités.

Hongrie.

Elections à Buda-Pesth.—Le 21 et 22 mai, les élections municipales ont eu lieu: deux femmes de la liste conservatrice et quatre femmes de la liste démocratique ont été élues. L'une d'elles est la femme du professeur Dirner, qui fut le fondateur de la ligue hongroise pour le suffrage des femmes.

Projet de loi sur le suffrage parlementaire.—A la dernière discussion de l'Assemblée, des discours admirables ont été faits en faveur du suffrage des femmes, par le comte Apponyi, Paul Egyemey Kiss, etc. En outre, l'Assemblée prit en considération les discours en faveur des mères de plusieurs enfants électeurs ou des mères naturelles qui avaient été exclues dans les projets de loi précédents. Si ce bill passe, et on peut l'espérer, étant donné la majorité des voix favorables, les femmes auront encore deux désavantages: elles voteront à un âge plus élevé et avec une limite d'instruction plus stricte que pour les hommes. En tout cas, le ton des discours a changé: maintenant que les femmes sont électrices, leur éligibilité n'est plus ridiculisée.

Beyrouth.

25 sociétés se sont réunies à Beyrouth pour traiter des questions féminines et sociales. Ce fut une des rares occasions où des catholiques, des protestantes, des Druses et des Mahométanes se sont rencontrées pour traiter de questions générales. Elles furent stupéfaites lorsqu'une Américaine, chargée d'une enquête en Europe, leur parla de la traite des blanches; plusieurs d'entre elles ne connaissaient pas l'existence de ce trafic; elles reçurent un véritable choc en apprenant qu'il y avait 600 prostituées dans leur ville. Plusieurs comptent travailler à l'œuvre sociale sous le mandat français ou britannique. La liberté relative dont jouissent les femmes turques, grâce à la largeur de vues de Mustapha Kémal, rend la situation des femmes de Beyrouth plus tragique; il faudrait que les hommes pressent une idée plus juste des réalités: plusieurs jeunes hommes ont déjà déclaré qu'ils n'épouseraient pas une femme sans l'avoir vue et sans lui avoir parlé. Les femmes, sous le mandat britannique en Palestine, ont obtenu, non pas le vote, mais une voix consultative dans les Conseils; elles espèrent que, sous le mandat français en Syrie, elles obtiendront les mêmes avantages.

Etats-Unis.

Ligue des électrices.—Le quartier général de la Ligue sera inauguré cet été à Washington. La Ligue sera très active toute cette année: dans les réunions de vacances, à la campagne, à la mer, à la montagne, elle organisera des conférences en faveur de l'entrée des Etats-Unis à la Cour permanente de justice internationale. Elle préparera ainsi des votes favorables pour la discussion qui aura lieu au Sénat le 17 décembre. La Ligue avait organisé un prix pour encourager le plus grand nombre de femmes à voter; c'est la ligue de Californie qui l'a gagné. La Virginie de l'Ouest et 32 Etats ont été compris dans la liste où plus de 50 p. 100 des électrices se sont présentées aux urnes. Miss M. Stahl, de Kokomo, Indiana, a gagné la bourse offerte par la Ligue pour l'étude du problème américain-indien.

Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, femme du Gouverneur de Pensylvanie, a dit dans un de ses discours: "Il m'importerait peu que les femmes votassent, si elles devaient être tenues comme des troupeaux par les chefs de partis. J'ai toujours désiré les voir entrer dans les différents partis, et y travailler courageusement et intelligemment à résoudre les problèmes sociaux et à réaliser l'idéal que nous avons toutes en vue."

Union inter-américaine des femmes.—Cette Union réunit les femmes des deux Amériques. Voici son programme: 1° encourager l'enseignement féminin et l'amener au plus haut degré possible 2° travailler au

bien-être général des femmes et des enfants; 3° obtenir et renforcer les droits politiques et sociaux pour les femmes; 4° sauvegarder les droits du travail féminin; 5° aider les femmes à développer les talents et les dons que Dieu leur a répartis; 6° stimuler l'amitié et la bonne entente entre les nations des deux Amériques en vue de maintenir la justice et la paix permanentes dans l'hémisphère occidental.

Un congrès et un dîner présidés par Mrs. Chapman Catt ont inauguré l'activité de l'Union.

Cuba.

Le second congrès national des femmes qui s'est réuni à La Havane a rassemblé les déléguées de 70 sociétés de la fédération et d'autres sociétés étrangères. Le général Gerardo Machado qui vient d'être élu Président de Cuba dit en substance: "Les femmes sont aussi intelligentes et plus honnêtes que les hommes, et leurs efforts tendent

généralement aux meilleurs intérêts de leur pays. Les droits politiques et les privilèges accordés aux hommes doivent l'être également aux femmes. Quand je prendrai mes fonctions prochainement, j'espère donner à Cuba un gouvernement honnête et effectif et, dans mes efforts, je compte sur la coopération des femmes du pays." Carlos de la Rosa, vice-président élu de Cuba, a appuyé les paroles du général et approuvé le programme de la fédération.

Service International de Migration.

Ce service a été organisé, il y a 4 ans par l'Association chrétienne des jeunes filles; mais en octobre dernier, il est devenu indépendant. Ses bureaux étaient à Londres; mais afin de se mettre en rapport direct avec les autres associations internationales, il va se fixer à Genève, 10 rue de la Bourse.

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